

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00115 102109Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
OMB-01 TRSE-00 /067 W  
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P 102030Z APR 78  
FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1299  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUEBEC 0115

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, CA  
SUBJECT: RYAN OUT FRONT

1. AS LAST WEEK OF CAMPAIGN FOR QUEBEC LIBERAL PARTY LEADERSHIP BEGINS, ALL SIGNS SEEM TO INDICATE THAT CLAUDE RYAN ENJOYS A COMMANDING LEAD IN NUMBERS OF COMMITTED DELEGATES AND THAT HE WILL BE CHOSEN LEADER. LATEST OPINION POLL CONDUCTED BY IQOP, BASED ON APRIL 4-5 INTERVIEWS, INDICATES 51.9 PERCENT OF DELEGATES FAVOR RYAN WHILE ONLY 23 PERCENT FAVOR GARNEAU. THIS TENDS CONFIRM RESULTS OF EARLIER STUDIES OF DELEGATE PREFERENCE CONDUCTED BY LE DEVOIR AND BY RADIO CANADA. MOST OBSERVERS ARE PREDICTING RYAN VICTORY WITH AT LEAST 1800 OF 2640 DELEGATE VOTES.

2. ALTHOUGH GARNEAU AND HIS SUPPORTERS ARE MAKING AGGRESSIVE FINAL EFFORT TURN TIDE, THERE ARE FEW EVEN AMONG MOST DEDICATED GARNEAU WORKERS WHO NOW BELIEVE THERE IS MORE THAN OUTSIDE CHANCE OF VICTORY. WELL INFORMED LAVAL UNIVERSITY POLITICAL SCIENTIST, VINCENT LEMIEUX, RECENTLY TOLD ME THAT GARNEAU HIMSELF HAS LOST FAITH IN HIS CHANCES, AND HAS QUIETLY BEEN EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES OF RUNNING AS LIBERAL CANDIDATE FROM ONE OF QUEBEC CITY RIDINGS IN NEXT FEDERAL ELECTION. LEMIEUX  
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CLAIMS GARNEAU FEELS HE COULD NOT EASILY WORK UNDER RYAN AFTER THE RANCOR WHICH RESULTED FROM A HARD FOUGHT CAMPAIGN.

3. ONLY NOTE OF DOUBT I HAVE HEARD HAS BEEN FROM INTERIM LIBERAL LEADER, GERARD D LEVESQUE, WHO CAUTIONED ME PRIVATELY NOT TO ASSUME A RYAN VICTORY UNTIL AFTER VOTES WERE COUNTED. HE CONTENTED THAT MAKE-UP OF CONVENTION, WITH REQUIREMENT THAT

1/3 OF DELEGATES BE UNDER 25 YEARS OF AGE, COULD LEAD TO  
UNEXPECTED RESULTS. SHOULD RYAN COMMIT SERIOUS ERROR AS  
CAMPAIGN DRAWS TO END OUTCOME OF VOTE MIGHT BE IN DOUBT.

4. BARRING SUCH UNFORESEEN, CRIPPLING MISTAKE BY EITHER  
CANDIDATE, LEVESQUE AGREED THAT MAJORITY OF YOUNG DELEGATES  
WHO ATTEND CONVENTION WILL BE DRAWN FROM FAMILIES WITH  
CONSERVATIVE, LIBERAL PARTY BACKGROUNDS. THEREFORE, MOST  
LIKELY FOLLOW LEAD OF THEIR ELDERS WITH VOTING FOLLOW SIMILAR  
PATTERNS FOR ALL AGE GROUPS. MCNAMARA

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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